

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 4.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the Operation of the Andean Trade Preference Act *December 4, 1997*

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I hereby submit the second report on the Operation of the Andean Trade Preference Act. This report is prepared pursuant to the requirements of section 203 of the Andean Trade Preference Act of 1991. The report concludes that the Andean Trade Preference Act continues to

advance U.S. counternarcotics goals in the Andean region.

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Remarks on Lighting the National Christmas Tree *December 4, 1997*

Thank you very much. I think, in the spirit of Christmas, the best gift I could give is a very brief Christmas message. *[Laughter]* Let me say to all of you, we've been doing this now for 85 years; for Hillary and me, Christmas begins with this wonderful ceremony. I want to thank all those responsible, and a special word of thanks to those who made it possible for the last 3 years for this beautiful Colorado spruce to be lit by solar energy.

Now I want to call up Whitney and Joseph, and ask them to stand with me, and put their

hands on the switch. And I'm going to count down three, two, one, and they'll flip the switch, and the Christmas tree will come on.

Merry Christmas to all of you. Three, two, one, light the tree.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:50 p.m. on the Ellipse during the annual Christmas Pageant of Peace. In his remarks, he referred to Campfire Girl Whitney Symone Powell and Campfire Boy Joseph Sherren, who helped the President light the National Christmas Tree.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With European Union Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters *December 5, 1997*

The President. Let me say very briefly that we are delighted to have another one of our EU summits, and it's particularly interesting because we now have two Luxembourgers here

instead of one, which gives them, I think, the highest percentage of world leadership compared to population of any country in the world by a good long ways. *[Laughter]* And we have